

Highway Planting Policy for Separate Contracts

This Policy provides the following benefits to the State:

It meets the Department's commitment to the Association of General Contractors (AGC) to limit the length of plant establishment included with road construction projects to no more than one year.

A General Contractor's bonding is tied up for the full period of the contract, including the plant establishment period. This can create a hardship on the General Contractor when the majority of roadwork has been completed, but the plant establishment period remains. The resolution of claims by the General Contractor is restricted until acceptance of the contract. With this policy, the General Contractor and the Department can begin the claims resolution process earlier than if a three-year plant establishment period were included. In addition, the General Contractor's bonding capacity is restored sooner.

It delivers to District Maintenance adequately established highway planting.

One year is normally not sufficient time to adequately establish large highway planting projects. Plant establishment periods of less than three years result in planting that requires care above normal maintenance activities. Limited resources in Maintenance do not allow for performing tasks needed to establish large amounts of new highway planting. This policy requires a separate contract for large highway planting projects that include three years of plant establishment. The results are adequately established highway planting with lower life-cycle costs and higher plant survival rates being delivered to District Maintenance.

It allows Caltrans the use of available federal funding for plant establishment work.

Currently, federal funding is available for up to three years of plant establishment on Caltrans projects that include highway planting. The Separate Contract Policy maximizes the use of this funding by requiring three years of plant establishment on highway planting contracts. When highway planting is combined with the roadway construction project, only one year of plant establishment may be included. This deprives the State of two years of federally funded plant establishment work.

It allows minor amounts of highway planting that require one year or less of plant establishment to be included with the roadway construction project.

Small amounts of highway planting can require one year or less of plant establishment to become adequately established. District Maintenance forces at the completion of the plant establishment period can successfully assume the highway planting. Small amounts of highway planting can be done efficiently when combined with the roadway construction project.

It assists in meeting the Department's small business goals.

When highway planting is accomplished as a separate contract, small landscape construction companies are able to bid on the project as the General Contractor.